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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,008	01/30/2004	Norikazu Ninomiya	P07838US01/MP	5026

881 7590 05/04/2006

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EXAMINER	
HUNTER, ALVIN A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3711	

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief	**Application No.** 10/767,008	**Applicant(s)** NINOMIYA ET AL.	
	Examiner Alvin A. Hunter	**Art Unit** 3711	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 24 April 2006 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:
   a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
   b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

   Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
   (a) ☒ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
   (b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
   (c) ☒ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
   (d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

   NOTE: *See Continuation Sheet*. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☒ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
   The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
   Claim(s) allowed: *26,30,32 and 34-36*.
   Claim(s) objected to: _____.
   Claim(s) rejected: *33*.
   Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing a good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☐ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
13. ☐ Other: _____.

EUGENE KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Continuation of 3. NOTE: Amendment to claim 3 now recite limitations that were not present within the claim prior to final rejection and would require further consideration..

ATTACHMENT B
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-25. (Canceled)

DO NOT ENTER DMH 4/30/08

26. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf ball having a core, an intermediate layer, and a cover comprising:

a first process of molding the core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body, each rib having at least one notch;

a second process of forming an intermediate layer in the notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs, the intermediate layer having a thickness that is almost the same as the height of the rib; and

a third process of providing a cover over the intermediate layer.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the multi-piece golf ball according to claim 26, wherein the second process comprises the steps of:

a process of preparing an upper part and lower part of the mold each provided with a hemispheric concave portion; and

a process of molding the intermediate layer in the notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs by injection molding after inserting the core between the upper part and lower part of the mold.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the multi-piece golf ball according to claim 26,

wherein the thickness of the cover is 0.8 to 2.4 mm;

the ribs are structured so as to extend along three great circles drawn on the spherical body in such a manner as to intersect each other at right angles, and have a height of 1.2 to 4.6 mm;

each circular arc section partitioned by the intersections of the great circles is provided with a notch or notches;

the length of the upper end portion in each circular arc section without a notch is no smaller than 10 mm and the depth of each notch is no smaller than 1.2 mm; and

the intermediate layer fills eight concave portions surrounded by the ribs and disposed between the cover and the surface of the spherical body,

the second process comprising:

a process of preparing an upper part and lower part of the mold each having a hemispherical concave portion; and

a process of molding the intermediate layer in the notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs by injection molding after inserting the core between the upper part and lower part of the mold.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf ball having a core, an intermediate layer and a cover comprising:

a first process of molding the core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body, each rib having at least one notch;

a second process of forming an intermediate layer in the notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs, the intermediate layer having a thickness that is almost the same as the height of the rib, the second process comprises the steps of:

a process of press molding a pair of hemispherical, shell-like pieces for forming the intermediate layer, wherein the pieces are composed of a rubber composition in a semi-vulcanized condition; and

a process in which the core is placed between the pair of pieces for forming the intermediate layer, the edges of mouths of the pair of the pieces for forming the intermediate layer are put into contact with each other, and the pieces for forming the intermediate layer are fully vulcanized by press molding so that the intermediate layer is formed; and

a third process of providing a cover over the intermediate layer.

34. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf ball having a core, an intermediate layer, and a cover comprising:

a first process of molding the core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body;

a second process of forming an intermediate layer in a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs, the intermediate layer having a thickness that is almost the same as the height of the rib, the second process comprising the steps of:

a process of press molding a pair of hemispherical, shell-like pieces for forming the intermediate layer, wherein the pieces are composed of a rubber composition in a semi-vulcanized condition, the process of press molding a pair of hemispherical, shell-like pieces for comprising the steps of:

preparing an upper part and lower part of the mold each provided with a hemispheric concave portion;

preparing a middle part of the mold provided with a separator having a size that can cover the concave portions of the upper part and lower part of the mold, and a pair of hemispheric convex portions each arranged on the upper surface and the lower surface of the separator that are shaped so as to correspond to the inner surface of the intermediate layer; and

molding the pieces for forming the intermediate layer in the semi-vulcanized condition by placing the middle part of the mold between the upper part and lower part of the mold, filling the concave portions of the upper part and lower part of the mold with the material for the intermediate layer, and press molding; and

a process in which the core is placed between the pair of pieces for forming the intermediate layer, the edges of mouths of the pair of the pieces for forming the intermediate layer are put into contact with each other, and the pieces for forming the intermediate layer are fully vulcanized by pressed molding so that the intermediate layer is formed; and

a third process of providing a cover over the intermediate layer.

35. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf having a core, and intermediate layer, and a cover comprising:

a first process of molding the core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body, said process forming at least one notch in each rib;

a second process forming an intermediate layer in a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs, the intermediate layer having a thickness that is almost the same as the height of the rib, said second process comprises the steps of:

a process of preparing an upper part and lower part of the mold each provided with a hemispheric concave portion; and

a process of molding the intermediate layer in notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs by inserting the core between the upper part and lower part of the mold, filling the concave portions of the upper part and lower part of the mold with the material for the intermediate layer that is composed of a rubber composition, press molding so that the material for the intermediate layer spreads throughout the plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs through the notches; and

a third process of providing a cover over the intermediate layer.

36. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf ball having a core, an intermediate layer, and a cover comprising:

a first process of molding the core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body;

a second process of forming an intermediate layer in a plurality if concave portions surrounded by the ribs, the intermediate layer having a thickness that is almost the same as the height of the rib, said second process comprising:

a process of preparing an upper part and lower part of the mold each provided with a hemispheric concave portion; and

a process of molding the intermediate layer in notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs by inserting the core between the upper part and lower part of the mold, filling the concave portions of the upper part and lower part of the mold with the material for the intermediate layer that is composed of a rubber composition, press molding so that the material for the intermediate layer spreads throughout the plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs through the notches; and

a third process of providing a cover over the intermediate layer,

wherein the thickness of the cover is 0.8 to 2.4 mm;

the ribs are structured so as to extend along three great circles drawn on the spherical body in such a manner as to intersect each other at right angles, and have a height of 1.2 to 4.6 mm;

each circular arc section partitioned by the intersections of the great circles is provided with a notch or notches;

the length of the upper end portion in each circular arc section without a notch is no smaller than 10 mm and the depth of each notch is no smaller than 1.2 mm; and

the intermediate layer fills eight concave portions surrounded by the ribs and disposed between the cover and the surface of the spherical body.